

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION SY-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 USSS-00 FBIE-00

SCCT-02 INR-10 CIAE-00 A-01 OPR-02 L-03 OC-06 CCO-00

/069 W

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R 211050Z APR 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 936

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

S E C R E T BAGHDAD 0262

BEIRUT FOR RSO

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, IZ

SUBJECT: PENETRATION ATTEMPT

1. ACCORDING TO USINT SENIOR DRIVER AND OFFICE GUARD ABBAS SOUSA (HIS RESIDENCE IS IN BACK OF OFFICE BUILDING), AT APPROXIMATELY 1900 HOURS ON APRIL 20, TWO MEN KNOWN TO HIM FROM PREVIOUS ARREST AS SECRET POLICE, APPROACHED AS HE CLOSING OUTER GATE (I HAD JUST DEPARTED OFFICE). THEY DEMANDED THAT HE GIVE THEM KEYS TO OFFICE BLDG. ABBAS REFUSED SAYING THAT IT WAS EMBASSY PROPERTY AND HE WAS RESPONSIBLE. THEY THEN DEMANDED THAT HE COME WITH THEM AND HE AGAIN REFUSED. AFTER ABOUT 5 MINUTES THEY DEPARTED WITHOUT INDICATING NEXT STEPS THEY MIGHT TAKE. WHILE APPROVING POSITION ABBAS TOOK, I HAVE URGED HIM TO AVOID ANTAGONIZING POLICE.

2. COMMENT: TO PROTECT AGAINST POSSIBLE PENETRATION WE ARE IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY ASSISTANT RSO DURING HIS RECENT VISIT. IN ADDITION, WE ARE REDUCING TO ABSOLUTE MINIMUM QUANTITY OF CLASSIFIED MATERIAL KEPT IN SECURE AREA. ALSO PLAN TO REQUEST 24 HOUR GUARD TO SHIFT RESPONSIBILITY AWAY FROM ABBAS.

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3. WHILE I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE STRONG PROTEST TO MFA ON THIS INCIDENT, I AM MOST RELUCTANT TO DO SO FOR FEAR OF JEOPARDIZING SAFETY OF ABBAS AND HIS FAMILY. FURTHERMORE, MFA ALTHOUGH DEPLORING IT WOULD BE POWERLESS TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT. NOR DO I BELIEVE PROTEST WOULD DETER SECRET POLICE. THUS, UNLESS DEPT HAS OTHER IDEAS, BELIEVE IT PREFERABLE TO CONTINUE PAST PRACTICE OF OFFICIALLY IGNORING SUCH INCIDENTS, TAKING MAXIMUM PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT SECURITY AND EMPLOYEES, AND WAIT FOR DAY WHEN POWER OF SECRET POLICE BEGINS TO DIMINISH. IN ALL HONESTY, THAT DAY IS NOT YET IN SIGHT, DESPITE GENERAL WARMING OF IRAQ'S RELATIONS WITH WEST.
LOWRIE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BAGHDA00262
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740101-0534
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740426/aaaaaxbd.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SY
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <12 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PENETRATION ATTEMPT
TAGS: ASEC, IZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005